

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method for distributing a print task among multiple printers, said method comprising the following acts ~~of~~ in order:

sending a print task to a driver;  
converting said print task to a printer-specific print task with said driver;  
sending said printer-specific print task to a spooler;  
sending ~~a print task~~ said printer-specific print task from said spooler to a non-driver print processor;  
sending print task modification commands to said non-driver print processor; and  
modifying said ~~print task~~ printer-specific print task with said non-driver print processor.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said sending said print task modification commands comprises reading command data from a configuration file.

3 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of prompting a user for print task modification commands.

4 (previously amended). The method of claim 3 wherein said prompting is print-processor based.

5 (previously amended). The method of claim 3 wherein said prompting is driver-based.

6 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modification comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks.

7 (previously amended). The method of claim 6 wherein said dividing comprises job splitting.

8 (previously amended). The method of claim 6 wherein said dividing comprises copy splitting.

9 (previously amended). The method of claim 6 wherein said dividing comprises a combination of copy splitting and job splitting.

10 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks and further comprising the act of distributing said multiple modified print tasks to a plurality of printing devices.

11 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is a printer-ready file.

12 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is journalled printer data.

13 (currently amended). A post-driver print processor capable of modifying a print task, after driver processing, according to print task modification commands, said print processor comprising:

~~an input~~ a spooler interface for receiving a print task from a spooler;  
~~an command~~ interface for receiving a print task modification command;  
a modifier for modifying said print task according to said print task modification command, after a driver has processed said print task, thereby creating at least one modified print task; and  
an output for sending at least one modified print task to one of a printer or a spooler.

14 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface receives print task modification commands independently of said input for receiving a print task.

15 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface is a dialog box.

16 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for job splitting parameters.

17 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting parameters.

18 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting and job splitting parameters.

19 (previously amended). The print processor of claim 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for multiple printer selection.

20 (currently amended). A computer readable medium comprising instructions for modifying a print task with a post-driver print processor, said instructions comprising the acts of:

~~sending~~ receiving a printer-driver-converted a-print task to at a print processor,  
said printer-driver-converted print task being received from a spooler;

~~sending~~ receiving print task modification commands ~~to~~ at said print processor;  
and

modifying said printer-driver-converted print task with said print processor.

21 (currently amended). A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of modifying a print task with a print processor, said signal comprising instructions for:

~~sending receiving a printer-driver-converted a-print task to~~ at a print processor,  
said printer-driver-converted print task being received from a spooler;  
~~sending receiving~~ print task modification commands ~~to~~ at said print processor;  
and  
modifying said printer-driver-converted print task with said print processor.

22 (currently amended). A method for modifying a print task with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:  
sending a print task to a driver;  
converting said print task with said driver:  
prompting a user for print task modification commands;  
creating a spool file for said converted print task;  
sending said spool file to a spooler;  
spooling said spool file to a modifying non-driver print processor;  
modifying said ~~print task~~ spool file according to said print task modification commands, after said converting by said driver, thereby creating at least one modified print task;  
sending said at least one modified print task to at least one printing device.

23 (original). A method for distributing a print task to multiple printing devices with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

- generating a print task from an application, said print task being configured for printing on a single printing device;
- invoking a print driver for combining device initialization and environment data for said single printing device and print task data from said application and creating a spool file;
- obtaining cluster printing data;
- sending said spool file to a spooler;
- spooling said spool file to a cluster-enabled print processor (CPP);
- modifying said spool file data with said CPP to cause said print task to be distributed to multiple printing devices thereby creating at least one modified print task; and
- sending said at least one modified print task to said multiple printing devices.